

What Is Claimed Is:

1. (Original) A chain comprising:

a first link comprising

a first member comprising

a female end, and

a male end, and

a second member comprising

a female end opposing the female end of the first member,

a male end opposing the male end of the first member; and

a second link comprising:

a first member comprising

a female end receiving the male end of the first member of the first

link, and

a second member comprising

a female end opposing the female end of the first member of the second link and receiving the male end of the second member of the first link, and

a male end opposing the male end of the first member of the second link,

wherein the male ends of the first link are rotatable relative to the female ends of the second link and form a pivot bearing connecting the first link and the second link.

2. (Original) The chain of Claim 1, wherein the female end of the first member of the second link comprises a boss extending toward the female end of the second member of the

second link and the female end of the second member of the second link comprises a boss extending toward the female end of the first member.

3. (Original) The chain of Claim 2, wherein the male end of the first member of the first link extends through the boss of the female end of first member of the second link and the male end of the second member of the first link extends through the boss of the female end of the second member of the second link.

4. (Original) The chain of Claim 3, wherein the female ends of the second link are maintained in spaced apart relation.

5. (Original) The chain of Claim 2, comprising a track-contact member around the bosses of the female ends of the second link.

6. (Original) The chain of Claim 5, wherein the track-contact member is rotatable relative to the bosses of the female ends.

7. (Original) The chain of Claim 6, wherein the track-contact member is a wheel.

8. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 1, comprising a pivot bearing bushing positioned between the female ends of the second link and the male ends of the first link.

9. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 1, comprising a pin connecting the male end of the first member of the first link and the male end of the second member of the first link, said pin being non-load bearing.

10. (Original) The chain of Claim 9, wherein the male end of first member of the first link contacts the male end of the second member of the first link.

11. (Original) The chain of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first link and the second link is molded from a polymer composition.

12. (Original) The chain of Claim 11, wherein said polymer composition is fiber reinforced, said fibers being aligned in the direction the load is applied to the chain.

13. (Original) The chain of Claim 12, wherein said polymer composition comprises a polyarylamide as a matrix for said reinforcing fibers.

14. (Original) The chain of Claim 11, wherein said polymer composition comprises at least one member of the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyamides, polyamide-imides and polyesters.

15. (Original) The chain of Claim 13, wherein said reinforcing fibers are glass fibers.

16. (Original) The chain of Claim 12, wherein said reinforcing fibers are at least one member of the group consisting of glass fibers, carbon fibers, and aramid fibers.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The chain of Claim [[17]] 45, comprising a self-lubricating non-metallic sleeve bearing between the boss and female end, said sleeve bearing maintaining alignment of the links.

19. (Currently Amended) The chain of Claim [[17]] 45, comprising a track-contact member around the boss of said female end, said track-contact member being located axially by said female boss and aligning the male bosses of the first and second members of said first link.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A member for a link in a chain adapted to connect to an adjacent link in the chain, the member comprising:

a female end comprising a boss extending perpendicular to a plane in which said member rotates;

a middle portion connected to the female end; [[and]]

a male end connected to the middle portion and comprising a boss extending perpendicular to a plane in which the middle portion rotates, wherein the boss is of a predetermined size to connect to the female end of the adjacent link wherein the female end pivots about the boss; and a track-contact member around the boss of said female end, said track-contact member being located axially by said boss of said female end and aligning said boss of said male end with an opposing member of said link .

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The member of Claim 22, wherein the middle portion comprises an I-shaped cross-section.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The member of Claim [[26]] 22, wherein the middle portion comprises a rib comprising one or more integral bosses extending from the member away from the boss of the male end, said one or more bosses for connecting said member to an associated unit.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A chain comprising:

a first link comprising first and second opposing members comprising opposing first and second male end bosses; and

a second link comprising first and second opposing members comprising opposing first and second female end bosses, the female ends respectively receiving the first and second male end bosses, wherein the female ends pivot relative to the male ends.

30. (Original) The chain of Claim 29, comprising a pin connecting the first and second male end bosses.

31. (Original) The chain of Claim 30, comprising an annular bearing between the first and second female end bosses.

32. (Original) The chain of Claim 31, comprising a wheel positioned around and rotatable relative to the first and second female end bosses, wherein the annular bearing is positioned between the wheel and the first and second male end bosses.

33. (Original) The chain of Claim 32, comprising a sleeve bearing between the first and second male end bosses and the first and second female end bosses.

34. (Currently Amended) The chain of Claim ~~[[30]]~~ 32, wherein the annular bearing is positioned at an intersection of the first and second male end bosses.

35. (Original) The chain of Claim 29, comprising a sleeve bearing between the first and second male end bosses and the first and second female end bosses.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Original) A chain kit comprising:
a first member comprising a female end and a male end having a boss;

a second member substantially identical to the first member;
a third member substantially identical to the second member; and
a fourth member comprising a female end substantially identical to the female end of the first member and a male end having a boss, the male end being substantially identical to the male end of the first member, and

wherein:

the fourth member comprises carriage-connecting structure between the female end and the male end; and

the female ends are adapted to receive the bosses of male ends to form an integral pivot bearing between adjacent members.

39. (Previously Presented) A chain comprising:

a first link comprising first and second opposing members comprising opposing first and second male end bosses; and

a second link comprising first and second opposing members comprising opposing first and second female end bosses, the female ends respectively receiving the first and second male end bosses, wherein the female ends pivot relative to the male ends, said links being connected by a non-load bearing pin through the first and second male end bosses.

40. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 39, comprising a pivot bearing bushing or low friction coating between the female ends of the second link and the male ends of the first link.

41. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 39, further comprising a wheel positioned around and rotatable relative to the first and second female end bosses, wherein an annular bearing or low friction coating is positioned between the wheel and said first and second female end bosses.

42. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 41, wherein said annular bearing is a ball bearing race between said wheel and the first and second male end bosses and the first and second female end bosses.

43. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 42, wherein a pivot bearing bushing is positioned between said ball bearing race and said first and second male end bosses.

44. (Previously Presented) The chain of Claim 40, wherein said pivot bearing bushing is between said female ends of the second link and the male ends of the first link.

45. (New) A chain comprising:

a first link comprising a first member having a male end comprising a boss extending perpendicular to a plane in which the first member rotates;

a second link comprising a first member having a female end comprising a boss extending parallel to the boss of the male end of said first member of said first link for receiving the boss of said male end, wherein the female end pivots about the boss of said male end;

a pin positioned through the boss of the male end of said first member of said first link wherein:

the first link comprises a second member opposing the first member of the first link;

the second link comprises a second member opposing the first member of the second link; and

the pin connects the male end of the first member of the first link to the second member of the first link, said pin being non-load bearing.

46. (New) A chain of Claim 5 wherein said track-contact member is located axially by bosses of the female ends of said first and second members and aligns said female ends.